



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Richard A. Howes et al.
 Serial No.: 09/954,507
 Filing Date: September 12, 2001
 Group Art Unit: 2666
 Examiner: Inder P. Mehra
 Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAINTAINING
 CONNECTION STATE BETWEEN CONNECTION
 MANAGER AND A FAILOVER DEVICE

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner
 for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

<p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p> <p><u>Willie Tyles</u> Name</p> <p><u>February 28, 2005</u> Date of Signature</p> <p>Express Mail No. EV 323318841 US</p>

RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

In response to the Office Action mailed November 30, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the following Amendments thereto, and the comments as set forth below. Please amend the Application as follows.